

# Higher Education's Master Plan Causing Headaches in Capitol

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

Despite the Sputnik-created concern over the quality of our public school system of higher education, it is still difficult for us in the Legislature to work out acceptable changes in the machinery. Committee hearings in our current special session on proposed constitutional amendments relating to collegiate institutions have again amply proved that the job is not easy.

As I have written before in this column, a liaison group from the University, the state

colleges and public junior colleges spent several months developing a master plan for the future of our public higher education. Because one of the proposed changes would require a constitutional amendment, two different measures were drafted for the purpose which varied mostly in length and detail as originally introduced.

EACH WOULD define public higher education as consisting of three segments, the junior colleges, the state colleges, and the University of California.

The functions of each of the three would be spelled out.

A new board, the Trustees of the State College System, would be created to administer such institutions, and the terms of its members fixed at 16 years, the same as University regents.

A new coordinating council for higher education, composed of representatives of private as well as public colleges, would be established as an advisory group.

BUT WHEN these proposed constitutional amendments

first came up for committee hearing, it quickly became apparent that there was practically no unanimity of opinion on the recommendations of the liaison group, and especially as to which of them, if any, should be written into the Constitution by the voters next November. Not even spokesmen for the various schools could agree on answers.

The dispute grew so tense that one supporter of the master plan recommendations said that the committee would soon be laboring over a corpse. Whether he meant the amend-

ment or public higher education was not made clear.

IN A SWIFT, and to some observers unexpected move, a series of amendments to both measures were offered which would have the effect of removing from them practically everything except the provisions creating the state college trustees, and the length of their terms of office.

In explaining these amendments, it was said they were offered so as to retain for the Legislature its authority to control the functions of state colleges as much as possible.

OPPOSITION OF these proposed changes in the constitutional amendments argued that

they are completely incompatible with the master plan. It was also asserted that their adoption would create further political pressure in the field of higher education and would increase the competition between the state colleges and the University which the master plan is supposed to wipe out.

Action on these proposals was deferred until a second meeting of the committee. At that time the group was told by our legislative counsel that the only element which would legally require a constitutional amendment was fixing the terms of the trustees at more than four years.

AS A RESULT the commit-

## Parents to Visit School

Parents of incoming ninth grade students are invited to an articulation meeting in the South High School Gymnasium

Tuesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. The principal and his administrative staff will discuss the classroom program, activities, athletics, and other aspects of high school life.

Following the general meeting the parents from each elementary school will meet as a group with a freshman home room teacher. These small group sessions will give parents an opportunity to discuss matters of particular concern to them with a teacher.

Eighth grade students may accompany their parents.

### RIVIETS

By Lew Kleis



### VIRGIL

By George Sixto



### RED RYDER

By Fred Harman



### SUPERMAN

